

What is claimed is:

1. A gasket comprising
a gasket plate,
an aperture through said plate, and
an annular flange in surface-to-surface contact with an annular
portion of said plate surrounding the aperture,
said annular flange providing a stopper seal around the aperture,
said annular flange having arcuately spaced areas of varying
thickness.

2. The gasket of claim 1, wherein said plate has bolt-receiving holes
spaced radially outwardly from said flange in arcuately spaced relation to one
another, and the areas of said flange adjacent to said bolt-receiving holes are of
lesser thickness than the areas of said flange more distant from said bolt-receiving
holes.

3. A gasket comprising
a gasket plate,
an aperture through said plate, and
an annular flange,
said flange being in surface-to-surface contact with an annular
portion of said plate surrounding the aperture and integrally connected to said
annular portion by a doubled over connecting portion which defines an annular
marginal edge of the aperture,
said annular flange providing a stopper seal around the aperture, and

said annular flange having arcuately spaced areas of varying thickness.

4. The gasket of claim 3, wherein said plate has bolt-receiving holes spaced radially outwardly from said flange in arcuately spaced relation to one another, and the areas of said flange adjacent to said bolt-receiving hole are of lesser thickness than the areas of said flange more distant from said bolt-receiving holes.

5. The gasket of claim 4, wherein said annular portion of the gasket is of uniform thickness.

6. A method of making a gasket having a gasket plate provided with a circular aperture and an annular flange surrounding the aperture to form a stopper seal, comprising the steps of:

forming an opening in the plate having a first edge portion spaced a first distance radially outwardly from a center point of the opening and a second edge portion circumferentially spaced from the first edge portion and spaced a second, greater distance radially outwardly from the center point of the opening,

folding back an annular portion of the plate surrounding the opening about a circular fold line centered on the center point of the opening to form the flange and placing the flange into surface-to-surface contact with an underlying annular portion of the plate adjacent to the fold line such that said edge portions face radially outwardly and the flange is connected to the underlying annular portion of the plate by a doubled-over portion of the plate which defines a circular

marginal edge of the aperture, and such that said flange provides a stopper seal around the aperture, and

compressing together said flange and the underlying annular portion of said plate in a manner such that an area of said flange adjacent to the first edge portion will be compressed a greater amount, and hence be of lesser thickness, than an area of said flange adjacent to the second edge portion.

7. A method of making a gasket having a gasket plate provided with a circular aperture, an annular flange surrounding the aperture to form a stopper seal, and angularly spaced bolt-holes spaced radially outwardly of said stopper seal comprising the steps of:

forming the bolt-holes in said plate,

forming in said plate, radially inwardly of the bolt-holes, an opening having first convexly curved edge portions adjacent said respective bolt-holes spaced a first distance radially outwardly of a center point of the opening and second curved edge portions between the respective first edge portions spaced a second, greater distance radially outwardly of the center point of the opening,

folding back an annular portion of the plate surrounding the opening about a circular fold line centered on the center point of the opening to form the flange and place the flange into surface-to-surface contact with an underlying annular portion of the plate adjacent to the fold line such that the edge portions face radially outwardly and the flange is connected to the underlying annular portion of the plate by a doubled-over portion of the plate which defines a circular

marginal edge of the aperture, and such that said flange provides a stopper seal around the aperture, and

compressing together said flange and the underlying annular portion of the plate in a manner such that the areas of said flange adjacent to the first edge portions will be compressed a greater amount, and hence be of lesser thickness, than areas of said flange adjacent said second edge portions.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said underlying annular portion of the plate is of uniform thickness.